

papillary muscle associated with the valve includes drawing the papillary muscle toward the valve.

d2
cnc

69. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the structure of the heart valve includes leaflets, chordae, an annulus, and papillary muscles.--

REMARKS

Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment upon filing this application. The Preliminary Amendment canceled claim 1 and added new claims 18-44. This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment adds new claims 45-69. Therefore, claims 18-69 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants also have made an amendment to the specification to correct a typographical error. An Appendix is attached hereto showing the changes to the specification, with additions indicated by underlining and deletions by bracketing.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Changes to the specification, with additions shown by underlining and deletions shown by bracketing:

changes to the first full paragraph on page 2, lines 6-13:

It has been argued that valve repair is preferable to valve replacement if the leaflet-chordae-papillary connections can be maintained. Heart wall stress will increase if the chordae are cut during valve replacement. It has been shown that by severing the chordae there can be 30 percent (30%) reduction in chamber function. Mitral valve replacement has high mortality [morality] in very sick, chronic heart failure patients.

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